

# THE FARMER & GARDENER; AND LIVE-STOCK BREEDER & MANAGER.

CONDUCTED BY I. IRVINE HITCHCOCK, AND ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY FROM THE AMERICAN FARMER ESTABLISHMENT, AT \$5 PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE

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Vol. I

## American Farmer Establishment.

BALTIMORE: TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1835.

### CARD—VALEDICTORY.

The undersigned announces with profound respect to his customers and friends, that with the publication of the present number, his connexion with this paper ceases; he having sold it, together with all the other departments of the *American Farmer Establishment*, to Messrs. SINCLAIR & MOORE, of this city, by whom the entire establishment, united with their own, will hereafter be conducted.

The gentleman who is selected to conduct the paper is known to the undersigned to be peculiarly well qualified for the task, and the readers of the *Farmer and Gardener* may safely anticipate a high degree of both instruction and entertainment in its future numbers.

From the ample and judicious arrangements which the new proprietors have made, the expectation may be confidently cherished that all business in the Agricultural and Horticultural line will be transacted in the most satisfactory manner.

The undersigned begs leave to assure those who have heretofore patronized him, that he is not insensible of the honor they have done him, and that he shall ever recur with peculiar pleasure to the recollection of his past intercourse with them. With these sentiments and feelings, he respectfully takes leave of them, subscribing himself their friend, very truly,

I. I. HITCHCOCK.

All persons indebted to the Editor for either subscription, advertising or merchandize, are respectfully requested to make immediate remittance of the amount, that all accounts may be speedily closed. He will remain a few days in Baltimore for the sole purpose of receiving such favors.

### CARD.

I. I. HITCHCOCK, late proprietor of the *American Farmer Establishment*, Baltimore, Md. having sold out that concern entire, will, within the next month, (May,) open in Philadelphia an Agri-

cultural and Horticultural Agency or Commission Office, for the purchase and sale chiefly of CHOICE DOMESTIC ANIMALS of all kinds.

He will also keep on hand, (when they can be had) the seed of the GAMA GRASS, and the SKINLESS OATS, and whatever other agricultural seeds, especially grains and grasses, he can obtain, that may be new or peculiarly valuable. He will supply also in the proper season, the MORUS MULTI-CAULIS, or new Chinese Mulberry, and the eggs of the Silk Worm.

He will also attend to the selection of fruit and ornamental Trees, Seeds and Plants, from the various Horticultural Establishments in and about Philadelphia.

Further particulars will be advertised hereafter.

Editors with whom this paper is exchanged, will confer a favor on the advertiser by giving the above card an insertion or notice.

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, Ark. Ter., }  
April 4, 1835. }

To the Editor of the *Farmer and Gardener*:—

The encouraging manner in which you received my last desultory communication, induces me to gratify you again, by giving you some general idea of the southern part of Arkansas, which appears to be so little known abroad. That portion of the territory lying between the Louisiana line and the 34th parallel of N. latitude, is watered by the Red River and its tributaries. This river would be navigable for 1500 miles from its mouth, but for an obstruction of drifted timber, called the Great Raft, which commences some distance above Natchitoches, in La. and extends 120 miles upwards to near the state line. A wide alluvial margin, dry, and rich as human avarice could desire, borders the river through its whole extent, and is esteemed the best cotton land in the world. Lakes, formed by the shifting channel of the river, and swamps, are interspersed between the river and the hills, but are all easily drained and reclaimed. The obstruction to the navigation has hitherto retarded the growth of this country, but now this obstacle is in progress of being removed, wealth and population are pouring upon us, and the lands monopolized with excessive avidity. Along the line of the 34th parallel is a range of prairies, elevated 600 feet above the valley of the river, and forms the dividing ridge between the waters of Red River and the Washita, from 15 to 25 miles of the former, and composed, as Mr Featherstonehaugh tells us, of a bed of calcareous marl, to an unknown depth. A black vegetable

mould of from one to four feet deep, has formed on its surface, which is equal in productiveness to alluvion. These prairies, before the hand of cultivation deformed them, presented to the eye the most captivating scenery imaginable—gently swelling to the curve of beauty, clothed with tall, fine grass, ornamented with a thousand varieties of the richest flowers, sprinkled with shady groves, and divided by sloping valleys of the most magnificent timber. Between these prairies and the river, the land is clothed with the finest timber, gently undulating, forming delightful valleys with springs and streams of water, with every variety of soil, from the black marl to the arid sand hill, and none of it inferior to the richest lands of N. England. The whole of the upland of this section of country is underlaid with a grey marl, into which our wells and cisterns are cut, and with as much ease as cutting in wood. The diggings of our deepest wells, though firm enough when first thrown up, for hearth stones, slack and dissolve on exposure to the weather, and become the richest soil, and spread upon our worn clay or sandy land, act as the richest manure. The timbered valleys, that have been for ages accumulating the deposits of decayed vegetation, and the wash of the marl from the hills, form a soil sufficiently retentive of moisture not to be affected by drought, and yet porous enough not to be injured by excessive rains. It yields from 50 to 100 bushels corn to the acre, or 1000 to 1500 wt. of seed cotton. This quality of soil shows no symptom of decay, but the oldest fields produce the best. We have an uncommonly backward spring, at least two weeks later than usual; but now, vegetation is proceeding with proportional rapidity. The forests are assuming the livery of spring, the dogwood, the wild plum, and the red bud are exhibited in bloom, and the haw-thorn and the elm their lively green, with the ten different varieties of oaks in bloom, unfold enchanting beauty, and promise abundance of food for our domestic animals the coming winter. The grass, also, is clothing our prairies and open woods, and all nature appears in smiling youth. Though the past winter has been unusually cold, the thermometer has never sunk to within 10 degrees of zero, nor did the heat of the past summer rise above 90. We enjoy a transparent atmosphere; our rains come only in showers; and during the hottest weather we have steady refreshing breezes that sweep over an extensive arid region, and cool, delicious nights.

Our Mount Prairie country, as it is called, may justly be considered one of the healthiest in the world, and we only want a population possessed of intelligence, enterprise and industry, to render it one of the most desirable.

Respectfully yours,

NATHAN D. SMITH.

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